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Hindu Mind Training

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*Hindu Mind Training.* By an Anglo-Saxon mother, with an introduction by S. M. Mitra. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1917. 536 p.

The anonymous author of this book, an English lady of culture and a careful student of educational schemes from Rousseau to Montessori, has found the substance of these pages of great interest in the training of her own son. She had traveled extensively and discussed the topics of education, particularly training of character, on the continent and in America, and found in the Hindu system as exemplified by Mr. Mitra, her teacher, a scheme that seemed to her far more practical and effective than any other. The system requires no labored textbook work but takes up the fundamental themes of life, one after another, in the twenty chapters that constitute this volume. Her method is to tell a simple story from Hindu classics, to group pupils and have them freely discuss. Most of her chapters are made up of the story itself in large print, interspersed with topical discussions by the pupils and applications and amplifications of the meaning by the instructor, all in a somewhat Socratic manner. Not only is the method very radically different from that in Occidental, Western schemes of education, but some of the topics are distinctly Oriental. The first topic is Commercial Genius and its theme, Business Capacity. It describes a boy who began with no capital save a dead mouse and became a very successful merchant. It brings out the value of imagination in business, the causes of success, and is correlated with Münsterberg's business psychology. Another section is on Ill-Gotten Gains, with the theme Punishment, comparing two brothers, one honest and the other dishonest, and this brings out views of mind analysis as a preventive of evil, and is correlated with Stalker and E. B. Holt. Other topics are Choice or Luck, Diplomatic Success, Self-Mastery, Fortune, Love Conquers Death, Wealth versus Health, Quick Decisions, Wasted Labour, Devotion, Respectability, Heredity, Migration of the Soul or the Unity of Knowledge, Self-Governance, Psychoanalysis, etc. The final chapter is by Mr. Mitra himself and consists of a comparison between the aphorisms of La Rouchefoucauld and Bhishma, a warrior-sage who lived some three thousand years ago.

The author of this volume has some knowledge of the thirty psychologists she rather freely cites, and there can be little doubt that this method in the hands of a good teacher would be a great stimulus to a class of adolescent boys.

The kind of education here described is of course mainly moral education or character training in a large sense. The book is interesting and suggestive, but the question is irresistible why the author chose these strange and sometimes weird Hindu tales (The Foolish Fish, The Glowworm and the Monkeys, The Fateful Necklace, The Pilgrim of Love, The Hare's Stratagem, The Talkative Tortoise), rather than Western tales which would illustrate the same thing and seem to the writer of this note in better form. The author evidently believes more or less in the migration of souls and the inheritance of past experience, the Oriental doctrine of self, etc.

G. STANLEY HALL.

*The Passing of the Great Race or the Racial Basis of European History.* By MADISON GRANT. New York, Scribner. 1916. 245 p.

Probably no other serious book of the past year has aroused as much interest and provoked as much discussion as Grant's *Passing of the Great Race*. It has been highly praised; it has been severely condemned. Certainly it is interesting, whether one agree with its contentions or not; and is well worth a careful reading.

The aim and scope of the work are described in the preface, written by H. F. Osborne, author of *Men of the Old Stone Age*. He says: "European history has been written in terms of nationality and of language, but never before in terms of race; yet race has played a far larger part than either language or nationality in moulding the destinies of men; race implies heredity, and heredity implies all the moral, social, and intellectual characteristics and traits which are the springs of politics and government.

. . . Thus the racial history of Europe, which forms the author's main outline and subject and which is wholly original in treatment, might be paraphrased as the hereditary history of Europe. It is history as influenced by the hereditary impulses, predispositions, and tendencies which as highly distinctive racial traits date back many thousands of years and were originally formed when man was still in the tribal state, long before the advent of civilization."

The book presents a new phase of the old quarrel between the rival claims of "heredity" and of "environment;" and naturally arouses both favorable and unfavorable comment. It is heredity, says the author, that is, race, which is the great factor in deter-